मंत्रालय से संबंधित नहीं है। यह आप अगर बलराम जाखड़ जी से पूछते तो ज्यादा उत्तम रहता ।

श्री सी.पी.ठाकुर : फर्टिलाइजर मिनिस्ट्री से भी संबंधित है।

श्री सभापति : कैसे फर्टिलाइजर इस्तेमाल होता है, किस तरह से जमीन में डाला जाए, क्या किया जाए, यह तो उनका काम है।

SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR : Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal to start an Ammonia Plant in Israel with Indian collaboration.

SHRI CHINTA MOHAN : Sir, there is no such proposal at present.

प्रसार भारती विधेयक का पेश किया जाना

*145 **श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह :** क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) प्रसार भारती अधिनियम को लागू किये जाने के संबंध में अद्यतन स्थिति क्या है; और

(ख) क्या सरकार इस संबंध में संसद में कोई संशोधन विधेयक पेश करने का विचार रखती है यदि हां, तो कब तक ?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (कुमारी गिरिजा व्यास) : (क) और (ख) प्रसार भारतीय अधिनियम को कार्य रूप दिए जाने से पूर्व कई अनिवार्य औपचारिकताएं पूरी की जानी हैं, उसमें संशोधन किए जाने हैं और कई कदम उठाए जाने हैं। सरकार को मामले की जानकारी है।

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : सभापति जी, देश के कई कोनों में पत्रकारों के ऊपर प्रहार हो रहे हैं, उनका शोषण हो रहा है और कई बार सरकार मूक दर्शक बनकर देखती है। बछावत आयोग की सिफारिशों के संबंध में पिछले दिनों इस सदन में जो सवाल आया सरकार उसका उत्तर ठीक से नहीं दे सकी। इसके साथ ही मैं यह नहीं कहना चाहता था, फिर भी यहां मेन्शन करना, कहना जरूरी है कि अभी भी जो तमिलनाडु में जहां कहीं भी पत्रकारों के ऊपर जो कुछ हो रहा है उससे हर जगह यह चिंता व्याप्त हो रही है कि पत्रकारों को सुरक्षा मिलना आवश्यक है। उस क्रम में प्रसार भारती के संबंध में केवल इसी सरकार ने नहीं बल्कि पिछली सरकारों ने भी या पिछली सरकार ने भी यह वचन दिया था सदन में कि पत्रकारिता के मानदंडों को ऊंचा उठाने के लिए प्रसार भारती की स्थापना हम करेंगे। जहां तक मुझे याद है, इस सदन में पिछले दिनों वर्तमान सरकार ने कहा था कि 6 महीने के अंदर वह विधेयक सदन के पटल पर लाएगी। इस आलोक में जो उत्तर है, जो मंत्री महोदया ने अभी जवाब दिया कि अनिवार्य औपचारिकताएं पूरी की जानी है तथा उसमें संशोधन किए जाने हैं, मैं जानना चाहता हूं इस सरकार से कि ये अनिवार्य औपचारिकताएं प्रसार भारती के संबंध में कब तक पूरी होंगी और उसमें उचित संशोधन जो आपको करने हैं वे कब तक पूरे करके इसे सदन के सामने लाएंगे ।

कुमारी गिरिजा व्यास : माननीय सभापति महोदय, पहले तो मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहती हूं आपके माध्यम से माननीय सदस्य महोदय को कि संभवतः उनको थोड़ा समझने में भूल हुई है। प्रसार भारती एक्ट केवल इलेक्ट्रॉनिक मीडिया से संबंधित है। वह ब्रॉडकास्टिंग कारपोरेशन आफ इंडिया एक्ट, 1990 है। इसलिए बछावत आयोग से और नॉन इलेक्ट्रोनिक मीडिया से उसका कोई लेन-देन नहीं है। इसलिए आपका यह पूछना कि पत्रकारों पर होने वाले हमले प्रसार भारती बिल से कैसे कम होंगे, मैं निवेदन करना चाहती हूं कि इसका प्रसार भारती से कोई संबंध नहीं है। दूसरा प्रश्न जो आपने किया कि प्रसार भारती बिल एक ऑटोनोमी

लेकर के आना चाहता था और पिछली सरकारों ने इसके प्रति अपनी प्रतिबद्धता दिखायी थी। मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहती हूं कि इस एक्ट को 12 सितम्बर, 1990 में जब प्रेजीडेंट से भी स्वीकृति मिल गयी, लेकिन इसके बाद कुछ इस प्रकार के घटनाक्रम इस देश में हुआ कि यह एक्ट पारित नहीं हो सका और इसी बीच चुनाव घोषित हो गये। मैं यहां यह भी निवेदन करना चाहती हूं और यहां पर हमारे कांग्रेस के अध्यक्ष राजीव जी को विशेष तौर पर धन्यावाद देना चाहती हूं इस सदन से कि दूरगामी दृष्टि से उन्होंने अपने मेनिफेस्टो में यह निश्चित किया कि यह केवल प्रसार भारती बिल ही ऑटोनामी इस देश में नहीं ला सकता। उसको भी कम्प्लीट करने के लिए यहां पर पब्लिक कार्पोरेशन होना आवश्यक है और उनकी इसी प्रतिबद्धता को दृष्टिगत रखते हुए नयी सरकार ने भी इसे अपनी प्रतिबद्धता माना और इस ओर कदम उठाने शुरू किये। इस बीच जो डिबेट इस सदन में और उस सदन में हुई और कुछ अमेंडमेंट जो विशेष तौर पर विभिन्न मिनिस्ट्रीज से भी प्राप्त हुए इसलिए हेस्ट में यह निर्णय लिया जाना कतई असंभव था। इसलिये मैं निवेदन करना चाहती हूं माननीय सदस्यों को कि इस संबंध में अति शीघ्र कार्यवाही की जायेगी, जो हमारे मेनिफेस्टो को प्रतिबद्धता को भी दर्शायेगा और जो विभिन्न तरफ से आये हुए संशोधनों की भी पूर्ति कर सकेगा।

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : सभापति जी, माननीय मंत्री महोदया ने कहा कि मुझे समझने में गलती हुई। मुझे खुशी है कि उन्होंने समझाने का प्रयास किया लेकिन वह ठीक से समझा नहीं सकी। मेरी मंशा बछावत आयोग का जिक्र करने या शोषण के क्रम में प्रसार भारती के संबंध में डायरेक्ट नहीं थी। मैं यह कहना चाहता था कि मीडिया की स्वतंत्रता के लिये प्रसार भारती का निर्माण हो रहा था। मुझे दुख के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय की वार्षिक रिपोर्ट 1991-92 की जो सदन में कल-परसों अभी हाल में प्रस्तुत की गयी है, उसमें कहीं भी प्रसार भारती का जिक्र तक नहीं है, जबकि इलेक्ट्रोनिक्स मीडिया की सारी बातों को आपने इसमें लिया है। इन बातों को मददे नजर रखते हुए मैं सरकार की मंशा जानना चाहता हूं? आपने राजीव जी के प्रति कृतज्ञता व्यक्त की, मैं भी इस मामले में कृतज्ञ हूं। लेकिन कृतज्ञता ज्ञापन का यह अर्थ नहीं है कि आप कोरे आश्वासनों से उनके प्रति कृतज्ञता ज्ञापित करें। मैं चाहता हूं कि अगर उन्होंने आश्वासन दिया तो उनको पूरा करते हुए उनके प्रति आप कृतज्ञता ज्ञापित करें। इसलिये मैं सरकार से जानना चाहता हूं कि आप एक अवधि बतायें, क्योंकि यह बहुत वेग उत्तर है। इतना छोटा सा उत्तर है कि प्रसार भारती अधिनियम को कार्यरूप दिये जाने से पूर्व कई अनिवार्य औपचारिकताएं पूरी की जानी हैं, उसमें संशोधन किये जाने हैं और कई कदम उठाये जाने हैं। बताइये कि यह कदम, यह औपचारिकताएं और इस तरह के संशोधन कब तक पूरे होंगे और सदन में कब आयेंगे? इस साल आयेंगे, अगले सत्र में आयेंगे, यह मैं जानना चाहता हूं?

कुमारी गिरिजा व्यास : माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं पहले ही निवेदन कर चुकी हूं कि हम लोग पूरी तरह से जो कुछ पिछली सरकारों ने किया और जिसके प्रति हमारे पूर्व प्रधान मंत्री और कांग्रेस अध्यक्ष जी प्रतिबद्ध थे, अपनी प्रतिबद्धता को मैंने शब्दों के द्वारा यहां पर दरसाया। मैं फिर निवेदन करना चाहती हूं कि अति शीघ्र का अर्थ अति शीघ्र ही है।

श्री सभापति : अति शीघ्र इस पर विचार किया जायेगा, अति शीघ्र निर्णय लिया जायेगा, अति शीघ्र सब काम हो जायेगा।

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : अति शीघ्र वाले भी खड़े हो गये।

श्री सभापति : इसलिए श्री उपेन्द्र ने देर नहीं की और अति शीघ्र खड़े हो गये।

SHRI P. UPENDRA : Sir, the Prasar Bharti Act was passed with rare unanimity

and the Congress Party was privy to it. They had cooperated in the passage of the Bill and a number of amendments suggested by them were incorporated in the Bill. The Congress manifesto also says, within 365 days they will implement the Bill. He now says 'as soon as possible'. The Minister has at several places committed that he would do that within 365 days. Three hundred and sixty-five days will be completed by next month. I would like to know from the Minister whether this Corporation will come into being by next month or not. What are those amendments which you are aiming at ? There is no indication of them anywhere. If it is to provide for competition the Bill provides for competition under the Indian Telegraph Act of 1885. You can give licences to anybody you want under that Act. It was also provided at the instance of the Congress party at that time. Even if your manifesto talks of competitive channel, it is already provided in the Bill. They are all confused. The Minister is very much confused. First he talked about private channel. Now he talks about the second national channel. I don't know what the policy is. I feel all this is to scuttle the Bill. I want a definite answer from the Minister. What do you mean by 'as soon as possible' ? What is the difficulty in implementing the Bill if you are interested in the autonomy of the electronic media ? You should immediately implement the Bill. If you want to bring any amendments you can bring them later. Will the Minister commit himself to that ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : Sir, I can assure the hon. Member that there is no confusion so far as the implementation of this Act is concerned. There was unanimity in both the Houses and I was also a party to it, as Mr. Upendra was as the Minister. Debates took place in both the Houses and thereafter, hon. Members who were present at that time may remember, at the fag end of the then Government's time it was hurriedly agreed to do. There were very good debates in this House. I particularly remember of Mr. Salve who was present here. But there are certain important aspects. (a) Regarding employees it was thought that they would be given option. But nothing was provided for those who do not give option. What will happen to them ? Will they remain as engineers or performers and, if so, where ? The entire thing goes to Prasar Bharati. They cannot do anything else in the Information and Broadcasting. That was not thought of. I don't blame the Minister. But that was argued and debated in this House by hon. Members. (b) The entire assets have to be transferred and vested in the Corporation—public assets worth Rs. 12,000 crores. It was thought that Government would divest itself of the entire assets and give them to the Prasar Bharati Corporation without any safety latch at all. Therefore, if anything happens we can fall back on section 25 to supersede. But by that time if anything happens to the public property worth Rs. 12,000 crores; there is no safety latch given. This was argued for three hours and it was cogently argued by Mr. Salve. This point was analysed, I humbly say, by me personally and we found that the reasons are very good. Therefore, we have sent it to the Law Department to find out what required to be done. Then the other question asked by Mr. Upendra comes. What are the other amendments ? We find that even though the Parliament passes the supersession order it goes back to the executive to apply its mind. We think the Parliament is supreme. After the Parliament passes the order that Prasar Bharti Board should be superseded, it has to be superseded. No executive can sit in judgement on the supersession. We have taken it to the Law Department to find out whether the executive can sit in judgement after the Parliament unanimously passed the order and whether it is valid in law or not. That we have to take into consideration. These are the main points. We are at it. On 12 September 1990 the assent of the President was obtained and thereafter the Government changed. Then another Government came. But nothing was done. It was kept in cold storage. We have started working, as I said in this House and also in the Lok Sabha, immediately after this Government came to power. It is not that the Prasar Bharati will come into effect within

one year. Two things are given in our manifesto which have to be considered along with the Corporation coming into being. Mr. Upendra knows it because he had applied his mind to the subject. We had a close discussion at that time. I was in the Opposition. Since September 1990—and it is now May 1992—sea-changes have taken place in the electronic media. Satellites coming in and beaming on their own were not thought of at that time. It was not visualised at that time. Then public corporations are to be floated. They are taking their right by entering into direct contract for which International Law does not give any protection. These are the main points which we should look into. It is a powerful media. As my colleague has said, we are at it. We cannot give any positive date by which we will be able to do it. It has to be deliberated upon. As it was unanimous at that time, we have to talk to the opposition Members, particularly Mr. Upendra.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You talk to him.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Certainly, Sir. We have to talk to him.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : Sir, the Minister is not correct on all the three points. Number one is option to the employees. Sir, exactly the same procedure has been prescribed ....

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has said that these are the questions which are ....

SHRI P. UPENDRA : No, Sir. The Corporations were formed earlier. There is a fixed procedure for that and the same procedure has been prescribed for Prasar Bharti. If people do not want to go there, they will be declared surplus. They will be absorbed somewhere else. Sir, there is already a standing rule. As regards assets also they have not been .... (*Interruptions*). How can he say that this is to be clarified and that is to be clarified and all that ? Once the Parliament decides, it is for the executive to execute the order. Parliament cannot pass orders. Parliament will give its opinion and on the basis of that the executive will issue the order. If you want to amend these Sections, you do it quickly. How much time will it take to bring these three amendments ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : He will discuss with you.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Sir, if for bringing this Act Mr. Upendra had to spend his entire term ..... (*Interruptions*). It is not correct. I think Mr. Upendra has forgotten the provision. I don't want to blame him. It is not correct. If surplus is there, they will have to be put in a surplus cell. They will have to be paid. They cannot be forced to go somewhere. We cannot just turn them out. Suppose one engineer with 20 to 30 years experience opts to remain in Government, we cannot turn him out. It is not possible.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE : Sir, having worked in this Ministry I can say with authority that confusion there is, but not of its own creation ; it is a precious legacy of this Ministry.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Was this confusion created by this Ministry ?

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE : It is a precious legacy of this Ministry. Sir, I am all for competition. I am all for liberalisation and all that. But let us not make it simplistic. Sir, the Defence Ministry refused to allow installation of an antenna of the CNN in the Bhandara Ordnance Factory on the ground that security was involved. May I know from the Minister—because this angle was not considered then and the question is of security of the country—whether this Ministry ever consulted the Defence Ministry with respect to making over the entire asset of Rs. 12,000 crores to a corporation over which the Government will have mighty little control ? I would like to know *inter alia* whether you are considering the defence angle.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Sir, so far as the first portion of the question is concerned, when the provision was made for handing over .... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Speak of legacy.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : If it is a legacy, I have to find out from son, grandson and great-grand-son, widow daughter, daughter's son, father, mother. We need not

go into that because Mr. Salve was also a Minister in I and B.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : One grandfather has already admitted.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Usually the principle that is followed whenever such a thing comes up is, a Cabinet note is sent to all the departments. I am not sure whether the previous Government sent it to the Defence Ministry. But I suppose all the department's notes came in according to the Cabinet's Memo of circulation. I will have to check it up and answer.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE : Sir, the installation of an antenna has not been permitted for the civilians who reside in that area where an ordnance factory is located at Bhandara. The Defence Minister had done that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Defence Minister was the Chief Minister when this question came up.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : What a bad legacy, Sir ?

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Any licence to be given is controlled by the Department of Telecommunication and they being the nodal agency deal with other departments as well, including Defence department.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Financial requirements for fertilizer projects

*143. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have set up an inter-ministerial working group to study the financial requirements for setting up fertilizer projects during the Eighth Plan period ;

(b) if so, by when the study group would submit its report ;

(c) whether the production of fertilizer by public sector enterprises is not upto the mark ; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to tone up the production capacity of fertilizer units in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA (MOHAN) : (a) and (b) On 24th March, 1992, Inter-Ministerial Committee for assessing and quantifying the requirement of funds and for identifying the possible sources of funds for various fertilizer projects in the public and cooperative sectors that are under consideration. The Committee expects to submit its report by June, 1992.

(c) Except the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation (HFC) and the Fertilizer Corporation of India (FCI), which are old loss making companies in the public sector, the other public sector fertilizer companies are performing well in terms of fertilizer production.

(d) The overall production performance of the fertilizer industry has been satisfactory, as is evident from 88.5% capacity utilisation in the case of nitrogenous plants and 93% in the case of phosphatic plants during 1991-92.

To improve production further, Government is encouraging various units to undertake revamping/retrofit measures which can increase production and improve viability.

Transfer of Rocket Technology from Russia

*146. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :
SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Russia has suspended transfer of rocket technology to India ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) what is the latest position about the contract signed between Russian and Indian space agencies about transfer of rocket technology ; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take for transfer of rocket technology from Russia ?